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DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMS

United States Department of Labor

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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Labor of the United States of America has for nearly fifty years joined with other nations around the world in cooperative projects for economic and social development. This experience has involved many labor and manpower resources experts in many fields, as well as representatives of many countries worldwide. Such international organizations as the ILO, the World Bank, and the United States Agency for International Development have also been involved in this extensive effort. The nature and scope of the development cooperation services provided by the Department of Labor parallel the work done by the Department domestically. Substantial resources have been allocated to U.S. Government programs in recent years to improve the income and employment conditions of poor American workers which, in turn, has resulted in the development of many new techniques, materials, and improved technologies that are adaptable to the problems in developing countries. Participation in U.S. programs to assist the poor involves Departmental technicians including federal, state, and local government personnel with a wide range of analytical tools useful for assisting low income workers in less developed countries.

TECHNICAL SERVICES AVAILABLE

The following indicates the specific kinds of assistance which can be provided by Departmental technicians to developing countries:

Employment Information, Analysis and Planning

- Defining unemployment, underemployment, and basic needs levels.
- Identifying potential areas for improving employment and income distribution.
- Developing an overall employment policy.
- Carrying sectoral assessments.
- Developing and evaluating human resource information systems.
- Improving data collection and analysis techniques. (including data on employment, unemployment, hours of work, income, consumer and industrial prices, living conditions, productivity and technology, etc.).

Employment Promotion, Standards, & Human Rights

- Implementing entrepreneurial techniques and other aids to self-employment.
- Assisting small businesses in improving productivity.
- Planning and implementing public works projects.
- Developing machinery for peaceful mediation and settlement of industrial disputes.
- Assisting in setting basic employment standards to conditions of work.
- Advising on the development of minimum wage programs, unemployment compensation programs, pension plans and social insurance.

Human Resource Utilization

- Designing programs to reduce underemployment caused by seasonal jobs and lack of information about employment.
- Developing employment services such as counseling, testing, placement, labor market information, and referral to training.
- Supplying information to employers on the availability of skilled workers.
- Providing supportive services such as health care, transportation, nutrition, child care, credit, etc.
- Designing special programs for women and minority groups who have traditionally experienced discrimination in employment and training.

Industrial Relations

- Assisting labor ministries in training mediators, conciliators, arbitrators and other officials engaged in dispute settlement funtions.
- Preparing seminars on collective bargaining principles and practices, dispute settlement methods and techniques including conciliation, mediation and arbitration.
- Developing machinery for peaceful mediation and settlement of industrial disputes.

Occupational Safety and Health

- Implementing health delivery systems for the poorest economic sectors.
- Providing special assistance relating to occupational disease prevention and environmental sanitation of the work place.
- Improving the safety of industrial and agricultural processes.
- Assisting in drafting of safety and health legislation.

Skills Training

- Determining training needs.
- Evaluating existing training facilities.
- Designing and developing training programs with emphasis on minimum training costs and instruction time to provide maximum employment, productivity and income (includes curriculum development, instructor training facilities.)
- Developing programs for on-the-job training and apprenticeship training.

Women in the Work Force

- Providing technical assistance in developing support for national machinery to establish women's bureaus and commissions to promote equality and full utilization of women as workers.
- Promoting programs that increase the work force status and participation of women.

Worker Mutual Assistance Efforts

- Protecting and encouraging workers who desire to form mutual assistance groups such as consumer and credit unions, and production and marketing cooperatives.
- Promoting the participation of the poor worker in the process of development.

FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The United States Department of Labor has no funds for development cooperation. However, the Bureau of International Labor Affairs can provide expertise to countries requiring assistance in labor and employment related fields. These include identification of labor/employment problems, project development, and project implementation. If the recipient country has adequate national income, it reimburses the Department for services provided. However, if such funding is lacking, then assistance must be financed either by the U.S. Agency for International Development, by multilateral development banks, by the UN or one of its specialized agencies.

INTERNATIONAL VISTORS PROGRAM

The Bureau implements an extensive technical and cultural exchange program for foreign labor technicans, trade union officials, academicians, government officials and business representatives. These programs generally fall into two categories—short-term visits with professional counterparts, or long-term academic, technical, or on-the-job training experiences that have been developed in virtually every industry and discipline.

Department of Labor Development Assistance can take the following forms:

SPECIAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

The Bureau provides informational seminars on labor related topics to developing and industrialized countries. This overseas cultural exchange includes such diverse topics as labor ministry staff training, arbitration, mediation and conciliation, and occupational safety and health.

INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS TRAINING PROGRAM

The Branch of International Training of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) conducts seminars of four to eight weeks' duration at its training facilities in Washington, D.C. These seminars are designed to strengthen developing country capabilities in collecting and analyzing manpower data and related economic and social statistics.

To learn more about these development services, contact the American Embassy in your country or write to:

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